

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6304

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MX

SUBJECT: THE COUP AT EXCELSIOR: WHAT NOW?

REF: MEXICO 8888

1. JOURNALISTIC SOURCE WHO ATTENDED REPORTS THAT A HUGE RECEPTION WAS GIVEN JULY 19 BY SUPPORTERS OF FORMER EXCELSIOR EDITOR JULIO SCHERER AND OTHERS RECENTLY OUSTED FROM EXCELSIOR MANAGEMENT. AMONG 1,500 PERSONS SAID TO HAVE ATTENDED WERE A NUMBER OF SECOND-LEVEL GOM OFFICIALS AS WELL AS "INTELLECTUALS LEADERSHIP" OF MEXICAN LEFT, FORMER COMMUNIST PARTY CANDIDATE VALENTIN CAMPA, MEXICAN LABOR PARTY LEADER HEBERTO CASTILLO, AND A LARGE CONTINGENT OF SPANISH AND CHILEAN EXILES. (SOURCE SAID LEADERSHIP OF POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY, WHICH SUPPORTED PRI CANDIDATE LOPEZ PORTILLO IN RECENT ELECTIONS, WAS NOTABLE FOR ITS ABSENCE.)

2. BESIDES GIVING MORAL SUPPORT TO SCHERER, RECEPTION WAS APPARENTLY AIMED AT RAISING MONEY FOR A NEW JOURNALISTIC VENTURE, AS YET UNDEFINED, BY SCHERER'S GROUP. TO RAISE FUNDS, "SHARES" WERE BEING SOLD AT 500 PESOS (\$40 US) EACH. SOURCE REPORTED THAT SHARES WERE SELLING WELL AMONG RECEPTION GUESTS.

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3. SCHERER REPORTEDLY TOLD SOME GUESTS HE HAD IN MIND ORGAN-
IZING A "NEWS SERVICE" ALONG AP/UPI LINES, BY MEANS OF WHICH
HIS GROUP MIGHT PROVIDE REPORTING SERVICES TO NEWSPAPERS
AROUND MEXICO WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BOUGHT COPY FROM EXCEL-
SIOR. HE REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT HIS AGENCY MIGHT LINK UP
WITH "LATIN" (REUTERS' LATIN AMERICAN SERVICE). HE SAID
THAT A NEWS SERVICE OF THIS SORT WOULD CIRCUMVENT PROBLEMS
POSED BY TRYING TO START A NEW NEWSPAPER--SPECIFICALLY,
COMPETING WITH PRESENT MEXICO CITY DAILIES AND, ABOVE ALL,
DEPENDING ON GOM FOR NEWSPRINT.
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Message Attributes

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